



# GOVERNOR SEYMOUR

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Third Series

ONONDAGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY DEPT.

## A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

# HORATIO SEYMOUR, and

BY

WM. W. VAN BROCKLIN, ESQ.

A MEMBER OF THE ONONDAGA BAR

AND

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF POMPEY ACADEMY,

BY PROF. ORVILL B. SNYDER

PRINCIPAL OF POMPEY UNION SCHOOL

ALSO

TWO ADDRESSES OF GOVERNOR SEYMOUR

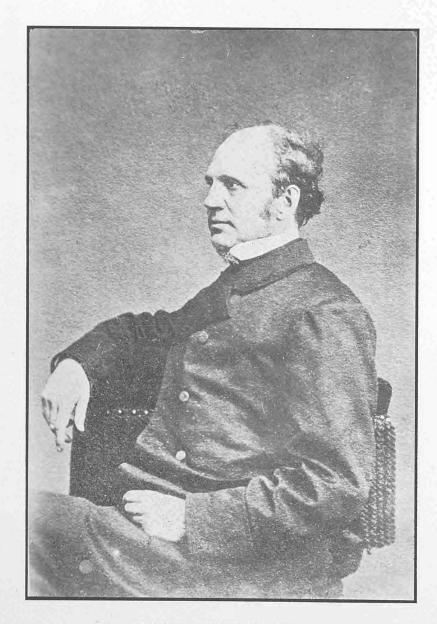
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BY REV. GEORGE S. MAHON
IN THE OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

#### PREFACE

Having been requested by Father George S. Mahon to prepare a brief account of the life and character of Horatio Seymour, I have cheerfully, though with regret that the task had not fallen in abler hands, accepted the task. From my acquaintance with Governor Seymour and frequent meetings with him, I was personally cognizant of some of the statements as to his sayings and doings made in the sketch of his life. I regret that more time has not been available to make a fuller and more complete record of the life of this pure and upright christian statesman. I hope the blame will rest on me if anytthing is written not in harmony with his high and noble life.

But this brief sketch of the life of Horatio Seymour and the other articles in this little volume are written not exclusively to call attention to his pure life as worthy of emulation by the rising and coming generations. A series of annual celebrations is contemplated to bring to the front the early history of the town of Pompey, and incidentally the lives and characters of its pioneers. Two celebrations have already occurred—one on August 15th, 1904, to recall the coming of Father Le Moyne to the Onondagas in 1654; the other August 15th, 1905, to commemorate the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in New York State, November 14th, 1655, at Indian Hill in the town of Pompey. Seymour Day, August 15th, 1906, will be the third. Others will follow till the present and future generations shall become thoroughly acquainted with the long line of ancestors who laid broad and deep the foundations of our country's greatness and renown.

WILLIAM W. VAN BROCKLIN.



GOVERNOR HORATIO SEYMOUR.

#### GOVERNOR SEYMOUR

BY WM. W. VAN BROCKLIN, Esq.

MONG the early settlers of Connecticut was Richard Seymour, who was a contemporary, and devoted friend, of that earnest and

exemplary christian, Hooker, both seeking a home through the trackless forest, settling in Hartford. Here the Seymour family resided until Moses Seymour, the fourth in descent from Richard Seymour, moved to Litchfield, Conn., which he represented in the Connecticut Legislature for seventeen years. He was a revolutionary patriot; served as Major in the army, and acquired an enviable reputation for brayery and fidelity in the cause of American independence. Another uncompromising patriot, Colonel Forman of New Jersey, was the father of a daughter, who became the wife of Moses Seymour. Of their five sons Henry Seymour was the eldest, born in 1780. Early in the following century he came to Pompey, Onondaga County, N. Y., a young man and pioneer of the classic town of Old Pompey that can truthfully boast of being the birth-place of more sons, who have become eminent in the diversified vocations of life, than any town in the United States. It was here that General Henry W. Slocum, Judge and Governor Charles Mason, Representative Charles B. and State Senator Henry J. Sedgwick, Senator Frank Hiscock, Judge Lucian Birdseye, Judge Leroy Morgan, William G. Fargo of Express fame, Rev. Doctor Taylor, late of New York, Rev. Doctor Hiram Hayden of Cleveland, Ohio, and a long list of other eminent citizens were born. Here also George H. Williams, in the old Pompey Academy and Law Office of the late Daniel Gott, laid the foundation of a successful life, which enabled him to become United States Senator and Attorney General. Within the memory of the writer, prior to 1870, Pompey had furnished to our State Legislature thirteen members, six Representatives in our National Congress, one United States Senator, two Governors, five Mayors of cities, three Supreme Court Judges, and one Major-General of our victorious armies, while many who had left their Pompey homes were elevated to posts of trust and honor in other States. Here, too, May 31, 1810, Horatio Seymour, "the noblest Roman" of them all, was born. An event occurred the morning after he was born that is deemed worthy of record, as showing the Democratic impulses, not in a partisan sense, of the Seymour family. Aunt Dinah, as she was familiarly called, a member of the Onondagas, who lived to a very old age, happened to be at the Seymour home and she sought and obtained permission to hold the infant Seymour in her arms. Later in life, when he became the Governor of the State of New York and she ascertained that he was to speak in Syracuse, she availed herself of the opportunity to see him, walking all the way from the reservation to the city. On such an occasion the Governor felt no humiliation to acknowledge her claim to recognition. While his father resided in Pompey he was a student in Pompey Academy, the common school and academic department occupying the same building. The late Hon. Manoah Pratt, his early teacher, describes him as unusually tall for his age, with carriage erect, brilliant, piercing eyes and walked with an ease and grace that marked him for a leader of boys, as he in later years became the leader of men. He was an industrious, close student, delving to the bottom of any subject in hand. Possessing an analytical and logical mind, he left no subject till it was thoroughly mastered. It is related that in the recitation room of common school and academy he appeared confident as he arose in his place and with clear and distinct articulation scanned Latin and Greek poetry with the skill and precision of a college professor. In college, without assuming leadership, he naturally and modestly fell into the role of leader, which was cheerfully accorded him without envy or jealousy on the part of his fellow students by reason of his superior skill in debate and in the recitation room, and his respectful and dignified bear-

At about twelve years of age his father and family moved from Pompey to Utica, N. Y. At his new home he continued his studies,

ing toward all with whom he came in contact.

and after graduating with high honor entered the law office of Judges Beardsley and Bronson and applied himself to the study of law with untiring industry and success, so that when only a little over twenty years of age he was admitted to practice in all the courts of the State. With bright prospects of success, he commenced the practice of his chosen profession, which was continued till the death of his father, which occurred in the year 1837. This event diverted his attention from law to the care and settlement of the large estate left by his father. His father-in-law, John R. Bleecker, also died soon after and the administration of his estate devolved upon him, so that for several years his time was mostly occupied in the management of two estates. But he seems at no time to have forgotten the course he had marked out for himself in the practice of law. As soon as he had accomplished the settlement of the large and complicated estates of his father and his wife's father, which he did with consummate skill and absolute correctness in detail to the entire satisfaction of every one having an interest in those estates, he immediately returned to the practice of law. In the meantime he had kept in touch with the courts and with characteristic industry pursued the study of law, the philosophy of government and political economy. His purity of life, both private and public, his magnetic influence and his christian example had attracted a large circle of his fellow citizens and inspired unbounded confidence in his integrity of character. So it was that the leaders of the Democratic party, of which he was early, and all his life, a member and the principles of which a long line of his ancestors earnestly supported, would not allow him exclusively to follow his vocation, but urged him repeatedly to allow his name to be used for an elective office. He finally yielded to the request of the Democrats of his district, in which the Whigs at the time had a decisive majority, to accept the nomination of his party for Member of Assembly in the fall of 1842. So great was the confidence of the people in his strict integrity, that he was triumphantly elected, having largely drawn support from the Whigs. This election brought Mr. Seymour into the company of some of the clearest heads and most profound statesmen of the State. The Assembly of 1842-3 included among its members George R. Davis, Lemuel Stetson, David R. Floyde Jones, Calvin T. Hulburd, Michael Hoffman, John A. Dix and others of equal repute. Among such a galaxy of intellectual giants Horatio Seymour took a position second to none. It was an important sess'on of the State Legislature. One of the most vital measures considered was the bill introduced by Mr. Hoffman to restore and maintain the eredit of the State. It was advocated and passed by the entire vote of the Democrats, who were in a majority in both branches of the Legislature. In the spring of 1843 Mr. Seymour was elected Mayor of Utica after a spirited contest, in which the Whigs, fearing his growing popularity, used every measure which their ingenuity could command to encompass his defeat. But he was so thoroughly established in the confidence and affections of the people that their efforts were fruitless. He discharged the duties of Mayor to the satisfaction of all. Again, in the fall of 1843, he accepted a unanimous nomination for Member of Assembly and was elected and returned in the years 1844 and 345. At the session of 1845 he was chosen Speaker of the Assembly, to which arduous trust he devoted all the energy and skill of a just and successful parliamentarian. So impartial and faithful had he discharged the duties of speaker that at the close of the session he received the unanimous approval of the Assembly. During his Legislative career the Statutes of the State show the enactment of many salutary laws and no objectionable features were allowed to stand with his approval. Ready and efficient in debate, his voice was often heard in the Assembly chamber on all important measures. The session of 1845-6 closed his Legislative labors, which had given him a deservedly popular State reputation, so that wherever he went to speak he was greeted by an enthusiastic and admiring multitude of his fellow citizens. About this time the bar of Oneida County and Utica was second to none in the State. Timothy Jenkins, Joshua A. Spencer, Judges Gridley, Beardsley and Bronson were among its members, and among such eminent lawyers Horatio Seymour took high rank at his retirement from public life. For the next few years his time was entirely devoted to his personal affairs and the practice of his profession. It was not till 1850 that he again became prominent in State affairs. After thorough and exhaustive study and research, he came to conclusions upon all subjects to which his clear and logical mind was directed, that became absolute. Obedience to law and the constitutions of his State and Nation was firmly fixed in his mind. So when the State Legislature passed a law for the enlargement of the canal and appropriated revenue in plain violation of the State constitution, his earnest and eloquent appeals to the people created a determined opposition to such measures.



HENRY SEYMOUR'S HOUSE IN POMPEY, WHERE GOVERNOR SEYMOUR WAS BORN. WILLIAM VAN BROCKLIN, ESQ., POINTING OUT THE PLACE TO FATHER MAHON.

Then it was in 1850 that he was urged to accept a nomination for Governor, which he did, and after a hotly contested election was defeated by only 262 votes in the State by Washington Hunt, a popular man of pronounced ability. The State and the United States were at this period agitated over the status of existing conditions.

The Democratic party, under the leadership of Horatio Seymour and other statesmen in accord, taking the impregnable position to obey the law as long as it remained and to support and maintain the constitution. That if a law became obnoxious, repeal it; if any provisions in the constitution, State or National, were not acceptable to the majority, take measures for amendment. They were opposed by a rapidly growing opposition, which openly violated existing law and denounced the constitution of their country. Some going so far as to say, "It was a covenant with hell." Under such condition of affairs the Democratic party of the State of New York with confidence turned to the pure and gifted christian statesman and again in 1852 he was unanimously nominated for Governor and elected over Washington Hunt by 24,385, and over Mr. Hunt and Minthorne Tompkins by 5,086 majority. After the asperities of the contest had time to subside and his administration ended, it was commended by all. No scandals occurred and no lobby forced through measures for mercenary and selfish ends. The credit of the State was kept at the highest mark and the strictest economy was practiced in every department of the State Government. He was again nominated for Governor in 1854, but on account of a split in the Democratic party, he was defeated by Myron Clark by 289 votes. After the close of his administration he again retired to private life and the practice of his profession, honored and beloved in the highest degree by his political friends and respected by his political opponents for his sincerity and firmness of character. In retirement he continued to take a keen interest in the affairs of State and was uniformly chosen to represent his district in State and National conventions, in which his advice was eagerly scught upon all important matters of public welfare. Soon after the election of James Buchanan, President of the United States, war clouds began to gather upon the horizon of the political world in the United States. The opposition to the Democratic party in 1856 had organized a Northern party and dropping all the names it had hitherto assumed, such as Anti-Masons in the State of New York, Whigs throughout the States, it took upon itself the name Republican, a name honored in the beginning of the nation's history; the Democracy being then known as Republican against the Federal party. Governor Seymour during this exciting period directed his powerful influence, in connection with other leading statesmen and true friends of the Union, to allay the gathering storm and avert if possible the clash of arms. In 1860 three candidates for President were nominated. Abraham Lincoln received the support of the Northern States, John C. Breckenridge the Southern States, and Stephen A. Douglas was supported by a large minority from both northern and southern States. The result of the election defeated all efforts at conciliation and compromise, and when the rebels fired on Fort Sumter a wave of indignation swept through the entire North with the velocity of the electric current and the cry to arms was heard in every hamlet throughout the northern States. With his characteristic firmness and decisive action, Horatio Seymour took his stand for the prompt suppression of the rebellion. In his home County of Oneida, at a meeting of his fellow citizens, he was chosen chairman of the war committee to procure volunteers .-

To a large meeting of the citizens of Utica he said among other things, "We owe our duties to our government. We must strengthen our armies and furnish means to conduct the war to a successful issue. The day has gone by for efforts to avert it. When the American arbiter. Consistency demands that we who strove to avert the war, should now strive to make it productive of those ends which we sought to reach by peaceful measures. All theories of government, that of centralization or that of State rights, require that we should stand by

With marked success he continued to fill the ranks of the Union army till the State had furnished her complete quota of volunteers. He took exception to the arbitrary arrest of citizens of the loyal States, feeling that such a course would endanger the suppression of the rebellion. The sequel demonstrated the wisdom of his position. His earnest efforts were to keep the people of the North, and especially his



JOHN F. SEYMOUR
Brother of Governor Seymour and New York State Commissioner in the War of the Rebellion, to look after the care and comfort of the New York State Volunteers.



HENRY SEYMOUR

Father of Governor Seymour, born in Litchfield, Conn., in 1781.

He was a son of Moses Seymour, who was an officer in the Army of the Revolution and for many years a member of the Legislature of that state, and who died in 1827 at the age of 84 years.

own State, a unit for maintaining the integrity of the Union. In the fall of 1862 the American party and the Democratic party both nominated him for Governor; the former nomination being at that time regarded as an unprecedented compliment. He was triumphantly and fortunately elected, as his course during his administration shows. In June 1863 the rebel army under General Lee invaded Pennsylvania. This produced great excitement throughout the loyal States and especially in Washington, and the President, through Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War, immediately called for volunteers to assist the Union army in the field to repel the invasion.

Governor Seymour, as chief in command of the State militia, lost no time in this critical crisis in marshalling volunteers to aid the army at Gettysburg. His troops were the first to reach the field of conflict. No Republican Governor was so prompt and only second to him was the Democratic Governor of New Jersey. He saw at a glance the danger and the calamity of a defeat at Gettysburg would entail upon the Union. With an energy and prompt decision born of undying love of his native land, without red tape he furnished the needed reinforcements. So grateful was Abraham Lincoln that he promptly sent the following dispatch:

#### "WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY.

June 19th, 1863.

To Adjutant-General Sprague:

The President directs me to return thanks to his Excellency Governor Seymour, and his Staff, for their energetic and prompt action. Whether any further force is likely to be required will be communicated to you to-morrow, by which time it is expected the movements of the army will be more fully developed.

[Signed]

Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War."

On the 27th, Edwin M. Stanton sent the following to Governor Seymour:

#### WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY.

June 27th, 1863.

Dear Sir :-

I cannot forbear expressing to you the deep obligation I feel for the prompt and cordial support you have given the government in the present emergency. The energy and patriotism you have exhibited, I may be permitted personally and officially to acknowledge without arrogating any personal claims on my part to such service or any service whatever. I shall always be happy to be esteemed your friend.

[Signed]

EDWIN M. STANTON.

To His Excellency Horatio Seymour.

The originals of the above dispatches, with many others of like character and still others pertaining to the forwarding of soldiers to the front and repressing the serious New York riot, are in possession of Governor Seymour's nephew, Horatio Seymour of Utica, N. Y.,

War Department Dear Liv to you the diego abliquation I feet for the frampet and condial support you have given to the government in the present emergency. The energy ability and patriation you have exhibited I may be presented presently and opposedly to asknowledge unthant arragating any personal claims on any part to such service - or to any Simile relation. I shale he happy always to be extremed your friend Edmulledanter His Prof Streets Segmon &

whose father, the late John F. Seymour, was New York State Agent in the Army of the Potomac during the war and by his care and attention to the needs and comfort of the soldiers gained for himself and the State authoritites earnest blessings from the thousands whose lives were saved and health restored by his personal devotion to their wants.

It was in July 1863 that a draft was in progress in the City of New York, when a large quota of the State Militia had been sent to the relief of Gettysburg. An infuriated mob, impelled by the belief that the quota to be drawn from New York was largely in excess of her just proportion, attacked and destroyed the provost marshall's office and committed other depredations and unlawful acts, in addition to killing many persons. As soon as Governor Seymour heard of this infraction of the law and the peace of the City and State of New York, he left the Capital at Albany and hastened to New York. Upon him devolved the delicate and double responsibility to replenish the depleted army of the Potomac and to keep peace within his State. The former he had already done. To the latter he now addressed all the diplomacy., energy and skill of which he was master. While the Mayor of New York was trembling and undecided, Governor Seymour heroically and boldly faced the mob. and in diplomatic but emphatic words advised the exasperated populace to retire to their homes and keep the peace of the city. That if they had any just grievances they should be investigated and justice should be done. Archbishop Hughes seconded Governor Seymour's efforts to disperse the mob, if possible, by peaceful means and delivered some good advice to the people. The mob had cut all wires of which they knew, but Governor Seymour used the Erie R. R. line and telegraphed to Binghamton, thence to Utica and back to his adjutant and set the State Military machinery at work to forward soldiers to New York to quell the mob by force if found necessary. At the same time a diplomatic intercourse was begun between the Washington authorities and State of New York as to the excessive quota apportioned to the City of New York. A committee was appointed to investigate the matter, consisting of William F. Allen of New York, John Love of Indiana and Chauncey Smith of Massachusetts. These gentlemen made a report to the government sustaining the objections of Governor Seymour as to an excess of enrollment in Democratic districts and an allowance of 13,000 men was at once made by the War Department. The Legislature of the State of New York, at its next session, passed a vote of thanks to Governor Seymour for his successful conduct of the affair of the draft and the excessive quota charged to Democratic districts. It has always been a question whether Democratic districts were excessively enrolled by design or mistake. If by design, then the general government was to blame for the riots of July 1863, thereby imperilling the cause of the Union. After Governor Seymour succeeded in having the States quota properly adjusted no further riotous proceedings occurred. It will be clearly seen, in view of the historical facts that Governor Seymour saved the Union cause in forwarding reinforcements to Gettysburg and again in preventing trouble in New York by correcting erroneous enrollments. He also commissioned more military officers who went to the front and did service in the war, than any other man in the loyal States. And yet there were some men and some papers so lost to all sense of truth and decency as to malign one of the purest men the world has ever known and whose name will grow brighter and brighter as his public career and private life become better known, and his maligners will sink into the obscurity of oblivion, a fate they richly deserve. It was during the period of the war that the practice of purchasing votes at elections became an alarming evil. It was Governor Seymour's advice to county committees to offer rewards for the apprehension and conviction of persons who engaged in such impure business, as dangerous to the stability of a democratic government. Governor Seymour used all the means at his command to have the soldiers' vote honestly collected and without fraud or delay cast on election day in the fall of 1864. To this end, under the State law, he appointed a commission composed of Col. Samuel North, who was assisted by Levi Cohn and M. M. Jones, to go to the Army of the Potomac and collect the soldiers' votes. They were arrested on October 27th, and lodged in Old Capitol Prison by order of the War Department. They were there kept in close confinement. After learning of the arrest and imprisonment of Col. North and his associates, Governor Seymour appointed Amasa J. Parker, William F. Allen and William Kelly commissioners in behalf of the State to go to Washington and make enquiries as to the cause of their arrest, no reasons therefor having been rendered to him, and to do whatever should be thought proper in the premises. They were permitted to see Col. North and associates and ascertained that they



COUNTRY HOME OF GOVERNOR SEYMOUR, DEERFIELD, N. Y.

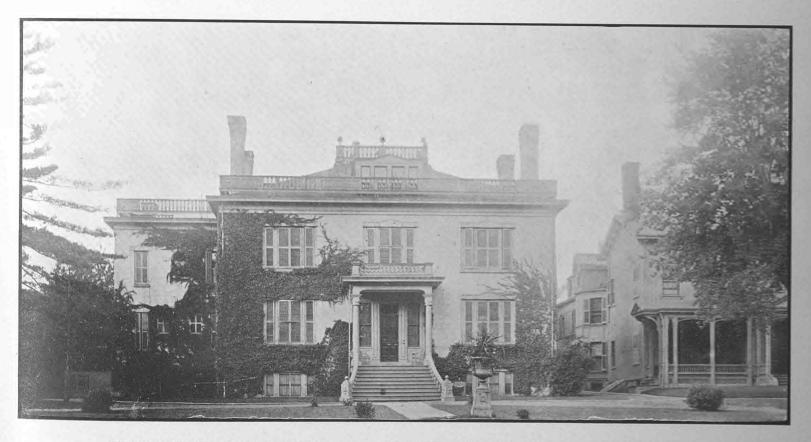
had been confined four days in one room and were not allowed to leave for a moment even for the calls of nature, and they had not been informed of the cause of their arrest. The Commissioners made a request to the Judge Advocate for a copy of the charges against them, but in this were without success. The commission reported to the Governor that they found no evidence of fraud against the elective franchise on the part of Col. North and companions. All demands of the State of New York to have them released, tried before a Civil Court or otherwise were refused. But assurance was given, that they were to have a speedy trial. It was many weeks before they were tried. Upon trial they were acquitted and yet were forced to submit to a cruel imprisonment for several days after their innocence was fully established. It has ever since been a question whether this arrest and prolonged imprisonment was perpetrated to prevent McClellan votes from reaching the ballot - box.

The civil affairs of the State and his usual solicitude were throughout his administration clearly manifest in his annual messages to make the burden of taxation as light as possible and to maintain the credit of the State. Again nominated for Governor in the fall of 1864, he was defeated by Reuben E. Fenton by some over 8,000 majority. When the slanders circulated against Governor Seymour and the money used to buy votes are considered, the result by so small majority may be regarded as a victory for Governor Seymour. Although retired to private life his interest in the affairs of State kept him active. He was often called to address public meetings in different parts of the State. His speeches at the Cooper Institute, Syracuse and other places will continue to be read with interest and they throw a flood of light on his appreciation of all public questions and his earnest desire for the welfare of the country.

The mercenary greed and prostitution of the elective franchise that have been a curse to the United States, began to develop in the early stages of the war. This was manifest in the shoddy clothing furnished the soldiers who risked their lives to save the Union and in the unprecedented use of money for election purposes. Not content with the largely increased profits as a result of the Morrill tariff, which was claimed to be a war measure, they must defraud the soldiers with inferior clothing. These evils Horatio Seymour denounced in emphatic terms and foretold the dire consequences that would result from such unlawful acts.

As the Presidential campaign of 1868 approached, Governor Seymour was urged to accept the nomination. This he steadfastly and emphatically declined to do. The Democratic National Convention assembled in the City of New York on July 4th, 1868. Governor Seymour was a delegate and unanimously chosen president of the convention. On taking the chair he delivered a temperate yet earnest speech, which was tremendously applauded. Pendleton of Ohio, Hendricks of Indiana and several others were candidates, nine in all. Two days were consumed in fruitless balloting. The whole number of votes cast was 317. No one could command a majority, much less a two-thirds vote. Mr. Pendleton's name was withdrawn by the Ohio delegation at the expiration of two days and he recommended that Governor Seymour's name be presented to the convention. Upon the close of the twenty-first ballot General McCook of Ohio arose and surprised the convention by nominating Horatio Seymour. The excitement was unprecedented and cheers and applause alternated. In an earnest speech he thanked the convention as calmly as possible and gave his reason for declining. Closing he said, "Gentlemen, I thank you, and may God bless you for your kindness to me, but your candidate I cannot be." The hall again resounded with cheers for Horatio Seymour. As Governor Seymour took his seat, Mr. Vallandigham of Ohio arose and emphatically said that the Governor had no right to decline, and after a brief, pointed speech he cast the twenty-one Ohio votes for Horatio Seymour. Then Mr. Kernan of New York expressed the sentiments of the New York delegation, which was that under the circumstances, that although Mr. Seymour had declined to be a candidate, he violated no question of honor by accepting a unanimous nomination freely and earnestly pressed upon him. The roll-call then continued and every delegate voted for Horatio Seymour.—After deliberating and consultation he finally concluded to accept the nomination.

The interests of the beneficiaries of the high tariff were so great and contributions to the Republican campaign fund so large and the prejudices against the Democratic party so strong that arguments on the merits of the issues were unavailing, and Mr Seymour was defeated. Again Governor Seymour retired to private life, devoting his time to personal affairs and literary pursuits. He was often called



THE LATE RESIDENCE OF HON. ROSCOE CONKLING, RUTGER STREET, UTICA, N.Y., WHERE GOVERNOR SEYMOUR DIED.

upon to deliver addresses at Agricultural fairs and literary societies. But he still found time to assist in organizing the Democratic party. He attended its conventions. He believed and so expressed his belief, that the best interests of the country demanded a change of administration—that the immense revenue flowing into the Treasury from an exorbitant tariff and the loose administration of the government invited frauds. He said a day of reckoning would some day come, though he might not live to see it; that the Republican party was so strongly intrenched through the money power that it might be impossible to dislodge it. About 1870 the frauds of the Tweed ring in New York City were made public through the efforts of Samuel J. Tilden. With him Governor Seymour was in accord. When the Democratic State Convention was held in Rochester, Tweed and his associates asked to be admitted as delegates to the convention. Tilden, General John A. Green, Jr., and Governor Seymour were delegates to that convention and they concluded that it would be unwise to admit the Tweed ring. They, therefore, organized their followers and a contest arose, and Tweed and his followers were denied seats in the convention, and proceedings were taken against them that resulted in driving the principal culprits Tweed, Connelly and others into exile. When a committee appeared at Governor Seymour's room, asking to be admitted, the withering scorn and contempt manifested as he told them none but pure men would be admitted, gave them no ground for hope. This action was heartily approved by the people and gave the Democratic party a lease of power in the State and was in marked contrast with the action of the Republican party, which elevated to a seat in the National House of Representatives one of the chief actors in the Canal Ring frauds so-called, which stole hundreds of thousands of dollars from the State of New York.

In Governor Seymour's intercourse with the people and his public speeches all who heard him were impressed with his honesty and sincerity, whether they agreed with him or not.

The carnival of mercenary greed has been progressing ever since the advent of the Republican party and no Republican President has attempted to check the tide of pollution till Theodore Roosevelt appeared above the horizon of the political world, placed in the Vice-President's chair, it was said, to shelve him. But the cruel bullet of an assassin placed him in a higher sphere. With heroic energy he has started the task to stop the wicked and corrupt infractions of law too long suffered. A coterie of Senators throwing obstacles in his way compelled him to seek the advice and assistance of Democratic Senators. This timely action brought harmony in the enactment of a law to suppress unjust and unlawful practices. All honest and patriotic citizens rejoice that the reckoning and retribution of criminals predicted by Horatio Seymour has come and may the good work continue till the administration of the government shall become pure.

After an active and eventful life, Governor Seymour died February 12th, 1886, at the home of his sister in Utica, N. Y., and all that is mortal of a christian statesman now reposes in the Forest Hill Cemetery at Utica, and there by that hallowed grave may the christian be not be ashamed to kneel and draw inspiration from a life devoted to the cause of his heavenly Redeemer. There may the statesman kneel and learn the lessons of strict integrity and honesty in public life. There may the professional men of diversified callings kneel and resolve from an example of firm decision independence, innocence and purity to be honest and just toward friend and foe. There may the patriot kneel and learn that heavenly peace is the highest and best condition to save his beloved country from the mercenary horde that always follow the track of bloody war, and there may we all kneel and take courage and a firm determination to meet and overcome all the adverse vicissitudes of life.



FINAL RESTING PLACE OF GOVERNOR SEYMOUR IN FOREST HILL CEMETERY, UTICA, N. Y.

#### POMPEY ACADEMY

ORVILL B. SNYDER

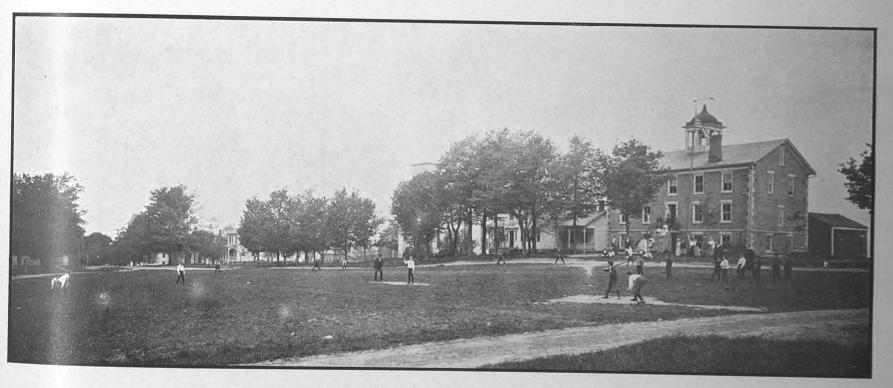
THE history of Pompey Academy is, in fact, a history of the early settlers of Pompey. Scarcely eight years had elapsed since the first settlement, when an application was made for an institution furnishing better educational advantages than the common school.

The undertaking was made amidst many difficulties that were everywhere present in our country at that time. Roads were merely paths through the forest, indicated by markings on the trees. Syracuse was only a marshy ground with a classical name. Money was scarce as a result of the Continental currency. The country had not yet recovered from the effects of the transition from the Federation to the National Government. The raising of funds and completion of an Academy was the result of much hard labor and sacrifice on the part of the pioneers, as is best demonstrated by the fact that it took ten years from the time application was made until the charter was obtained. At the beginning of the enterprise the Regents of the University would not grant a charter until a suitable building had been erected. At this time there were no Academies in the county, and a question was raised by the University as to whether Pompey was the most suitable place in Onondaga County for the only school of higher education. In spite of all these embarrassments, public spirit overbalanced the difficulties, and in 1810 the building for Pompey Academy was completed.

The old Academy was a two-story wooden structure, painted yellow, fifty by forty feet. The first floor was divided into two school-rooms and a corridor in the center. In one room was the Academy and in the other the common school. The second floor was one large room used as an assembly hall for both school and public meetings. It was heated by huge fire-places. In long benches extending nearly round the room, sat the boys on one side and the girls on the other. The ingenuity in the perpetration of pranks played upon those early preceptors, and further developed from their academic training, fitted them for keen, patriotic men in the public life in which many of them engaged.

The next year the Academy received its charter, which was signed by Daniel D. Tompkins, then Governor of the State and ex-officio chancellor of the University. There were twenty-four citizens of Pompey named in the original charter as the first trustees of Pompey Academy, including Henry Seymour, father of Governor Horatio Seymour. The purpose of the Academy was to teach branches of literature, languages and science superior to those taught in the common school. A graduate from Pompey Academy was considered a well educated person, so well that its graduates were admitted as Juniors to nearly all the colleges. The first teacher of the Academy was Ely Burchard of Yale. The many principals of the Academy were excellent men and educators, which has had its full share in making Pompey the historical place that it is.

Scores of Pompey's students have risen to positions of trust and responsibility in every field of endeavors and in all parts of the country. Many records of the school are lost; but by searching those yet intact, we find that the following well known men received their early education in Pompey Academy. Governor Horatio Seymour, in whose honor the people of Pompey celebrated the fifteenth of August, 1906; Congressman, Daniel Gott; United States Senator from Iowa, and Attorney General in President Grant's cabinet, G. H. Williams; Congressman, Charles B. Sedgwick; Major General, Henry W. Slocum; Supreme Court Judge, Leroy Morgan; Governor Charles Mason of Iowa; State Engineer, Siebred Dodge of Ohio; Supreme Court Judge, Lucian Birdseye; Dr. R. F. Stevens of Lysander; Dr. Charles Stevens, William Stevens, Horatio Seymour Birdsey, Cortland; Daniel P. Wood, United States Bank Examiner; Charles C. Van Brocklin; Sarah Jane



HISTORIC POMPEY ACADEMY. ERECTED IN 1835. VILLAGE GREEN AND PLAY GROUNDS.

Clark, nom de plume, Grace Greenwood, who attained a notable reputation as a writer of both prose and poetry. Contemporary with many of these are Hon. Francis Hiscock, our esteemed statesman, who has represented our district five terms in Congress and our State one term in the National Senate, and William W. Van Brocklin, Esq., our beloved townsman.

Another alumnus of the Academy, Major Robert E. Hopkins of Tarrytown, N. Y., whose loyalty to the school of his boyhood occasioned him to remember it as follows: "To the Trustees or Officers managing the affairs of the Academy located at Pompey Hill, Onon-daga County, New York, and to their successors in office I give and bequeath the sum of three thousand (\$3,000.00) dollars. I direct that this money be securely invested by said Trustees or Officers and that the income or produce thereof be used solely for keeping in repair and beautifying said Academy."

In 1833 the old building became unfit for use and the present building was completed in 1835. The next year the preceptor's house was built.

At the time the new building was erected the Academy was in its most flourishing condition. It was equipped with the best apparatus of that day. Its library was one of the best school libraries in the county. The teachers were graduates from the best colleges of the land. As a boarding school it ranked with the best. The location had much to do with its success, for parents preferred sending their children where the quiet and retirement separated the student from those evil influences by which the attention of pupils is generally drawn from their studies. The health, beauty and morality of the place all conduced to render it a most desirable locality for such a school.

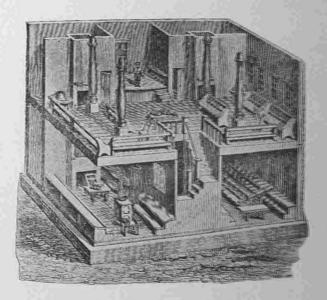
As soon as stage coaches began to give way to railroads, Academies began to give way to public high schools. The surrounding towns began to build schools to educate their own children, and the power of the Academies began to decline. A new era was taking place in educational matters, and free schools were supplanting the private institutions. The benefits of the Academy to the past generations of Pompey and vicinity had created a sympathy in behalf of the venerable institution and it was like parting with a dear friend for the trustees to surrender the Academy for the new Union School. In spite of the veneration for the old school the trustees foresaw the advantages to be derived from the new, and very judiciously surrendered the charter and school property to the trustees of Pompey Union School. Many of the Academy trustees became members of the new Board of Education thus keeping alive the educational spirit planted here by those sturdy New England ancestors in the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The members of the present Board of Education are, Rev. G. S. Mahon, A. M., President; Peter Brennan, Marshal R. Dyer, Thomas Cox, John Henneberry, John Carroll and John H. Oley. These are practical men and fully alive to the new theories in education. The faculty for the school year 1905-6 are Orvill B. Snyder, Principal; Mary L. Tarbell, preceptress; Anna G. Oley and Sarah Shanahan, intermediate and grammar departments; Anna McGuire, Anna Keough and Margaret Warn, primary department, drawing and music.

The school is now recognized by the State Department of Education as a senior school with modern educational facilities. The laboratory is equipped with modern apparatus, sufficient to teach Biology and Physics as is required by the State Department. The library and laboratory furnishings are valued at \$1,000.00. A new course of study has just been adopted and approved by the authorities at Albany. This course of study will admit graduates to colleges and normal schools. Foreign pupils holding a preliminary certificate or its equivalent will be admitted to any preparatory course of study at state expense. Pompey is a beautiful summer resort, its elevation affords a scenery than is not surpassed in Central New York. Parents need not hesitate in sending their children to Pompey Union School, as its location and morality is such that pupils are not drawn from their studies by attractions that exist in many larger places.



Original Pompey Academy, erected in 1810, Where Gov. Seymour attended when a boy.



Fac-Simile of Interior of Original Pompey Academy.

#### ADDRESS DELIVERED BY

# GOVERNOR SEYMOUR

AT POMPEY, N. Y., JUNE 29, 1871

THERE is a living cord which binds men and animals to the spots where they first feel life. A wonderful instinct guides the fish of the sea through the dark floods of the ocean to the streams where their existence begins; that directs the bird through the vast expanse of the air back to the hidden spot where it was born, and enables the beast of the forest to track its way through the dense shades to its native lair. A secret of vague yearning for our first home draws to-day to this retired village men from all parts of our broad country. They have left the exacting busy pursuits of their several stations at the bidding of this instinctive demand of nature at no small cost of time, of effort, and of means. They are here from the shores of the Atlantic and the Pacific; from the great valley of the Mississippi; from Northern and Southern States. Whatever their stations in life may be, and although they may have become old men, the spirit of childhood comes over them when they stand again in the places where everything recalls the feelings and the associations of early youth. But beyond an instinctive desire to revisit our native homes, there are moral and intellectual reasons which have moved us to accept the invitations of the citizens of this town to meet here on this occasion. We sometimes think of the sorrows and joys of childhood as trivial things, and we smile at the deep feelings they once excited. As we grow older we look upon them in a different light. We find they had much to do in forming our characters and shaping our fortunes. Their memories have gone with us through life. They are golden threads woven in the warp and woof of our existence. They grow brighter as the rest of the fabric fades and decays. No man comes back alone to this spot thus hallowed. Each is surrounded with a crowd of those whom he has in imagination called back from their graves. On this day and in this place he sees with vivid clearness their forms and aspects, and he holds with them a closer communion. If each of us could see the cloud of such visions, which fills the minds of this assemblage, we should then feel that we are in the awful presence of the multitude of the spirits of those who once lived and acted here, and whose memories we cherish among the sacred things of our hearts.

Beyond those instinctive thoughts which crowd upon our mind, there are many matters of historic interest connected with this town and this vicinity. They would make ample topics for a more full address than would be in place at this time. This is not an occasion for any one man's speech, but for an exhibition of the feelings of each and all who meet here to indulge their memories with the past and to do honor to their forefathers. I will therefore say but a few words, and I will then give way to others.

Those of us who have reached the age of three score years will remember this spot as one of the frontier stations of civilization. The land was covered as with a pall by great and gloomy forests. The first settlers placed their homes upon the hill tops, where they could most readily get air and light and an outlook over the land then covered as if by a great ocean with the green and waving foliage of lofty tree tops. The deeper and darker valleys were shunned. Their luxuriant but excessive vegetation was fraught with disease and death. We used to look off upon the lower lands, where the city of Syracuse now stands with its population of fifty thousand, as a pestilential place to be avoided. It was then an unsightly swamp, in whose miasmatic air many sickened and died. At that day the toil and energy of the country were given to cutting down the overshadowing forests. The trees were felled in the winter months. In the spring their huge trunks were piled up and burned, filling the country with smoke of the log heaps; in the summer the crop was cultivated with painful toil

amid the stumps and roots that covered the ground with a net work of decaying wood; in autumn they gathered the slender harvests, which gave them their simple food and scanty clothing. For these blessings they thanked God and were content. It took a lifetime of hard and patient work to make a cleared farm in this hill region. I do not think the men of this generation are equal to the work done by their fathers. I will not recount the events and changes which have taken place since their days. They are constantly forced upon our attention when we turn our mind towards the past. It is enough to say that we who saw the forest cut down in this region, who watched the retreating steps of savage tribes, and who witnessed the destruction of the wild beasts of the woods, have lived through social changes and a material progress equal to that of ten centuries of English history. We have seen changes in the condition of our people as marked as those which have occurred in Britain from the reign of Alfred the Great to that of Queen Victoria. We have witnessed the first steps and the highest achievement of civilization.

Let me say a few words about the social condition of this town at the beginning of this century. The people were poor; their condition was one of constant toil and hard struggles to gain food and clothing; but these evils were relieved by the kindly sympathies which sprung from common wants. All intercourse was upon a level. Where all were poor there was no glare of wealth to shame powerty or to cause repining. In this respect this community was then like all others in Central New York. But there was one fact which every native of the town loves to speak of, which sent so many of its sons forth into the world to become prosperous men, which brings so many of them back to-day with feelings of gratitude to their fathers. Amidst all their poverty, toil and privation, their first thought was to get schools for their children, and to found an academy which should give instruction in the higher branches of education. To do thus grean efforts were made, and in some instances men put mortgages upon their lands to enable them to do their share towards building up thus institution. For a long time it was the only academy in a large section of this State, and many pupils were sent to it from adjourning counties. The people of Onondaga have always given the founders of this town great credit for their wisdom and foresight. Amount the first in-comers were persons of culture and ability, who did much to form the characters and shape the policy of their townsmen. At once time all the four members in the Legislature of the State from this county, and at or about the same time the representatives in Compression were natives of the town of Pompey.

It can be claimed for its academy that it was of National consequence. In the Senate of the United States, in the House or representatives, in the Judiciary of the Nation and of New York, in the Legislatures of the States, in the armies of the Union, in the pulputs of our churches, in the learned professions, and in all useful pursuits, those born and educated in this town have held positions of bomor and responsibility. One of the earliest recollections of my childhood is that of looking upon a meeting of the friends of that academy, on a winter's evening, in a room which was lighted, as well as warmed, by a huge wood fire, which roared and flashed in the cavernous fine place. All the means and efforts of its founders could only put up an humble building for academical uses. If seem now, we might simile at its rude workmanship and its meagre endowment and books and apparatus, but if we could see it in the light of the benefits it lines dome we should bow reverentially to the memories of those who founded it, amid all the wants, trials and poverty of frontier life.

The social condition of this country has changed in the last half century. At the outset it was rude, but it was free and wood of shums and hypocrisy. They had a kind of teaching too, which, in some ways was better than that gained by wodern improvements in books and schools. At an early day, in poor communities only those who were able to put up comfortable houses could entertain travelers. Hence fifty years ago inn-keepers were among our leading men. The village bar-room was not only made attractive by its ample space and made cheerful by its great fires of logs and sticks, which would be called logs in those days, but it was also the place of common resort for all classes. Here the lawyer, the doctor, clergyman, and men of business and of labor, met to talk over the affairs of the fown, the State and nation. These discussions were open to all of the wide circle which filled the room.

Men then heard both sides of the questions of the day. They learned to temper their prejudices, and to correct their opinions. Nor was the gain to the uneducated only. The members of the learned professions were taught much that was valuable to them in their pursuits. Clergymen and lawyers knew more of human nature then than now. Opinions were not formed in studies alone, or from association with one class of minds. Hence they were not put forth in those terms of bitterness, and with those feelings of bigotry which are apt to mark those who see but one side of questions. The village bar-room had its evils and its temptations. If these could be done away with, and its cheerful rooms and bright fires could be restored, and above all, if the old kindly and free intercourse among all classes could be renewed, we should not only have better order and morals throughout our social system, but we should all have wiser and better men at the bar, in the pulpit, and in the halls of State and National legislation.

The amusements of those old days were more robust than at this time. Physical strength and activity were admired. Each town had ambitions of having the swiftest runner and the most skilful wrestler. The battle with the forest could only be fought and won by hands hardened to toil and endurance. These were the qualities most admired, for they were most needed. Our deacons would not now think of calling out the country to aid in lifting up the frames of their churches by a promise that some adventurous man would stand upon his head on the highest ball on the steeple's top, and twine his feet in the times of the lightning rod. Yet, if my memory serves me right, the church which stands in its fair proportions on this village green was helped up by some such inducements. I am sure the deacons would not try to stimulate the sale of pews by putting a pail of punch on the pulpit stairs to warm up the liberal spirits of the church members. I know that was the case when the pews were sold in the church just by.

It has been said that those were the "days of pure liquor, sound Democracy and vital piety." We can dispense with the liquor, pure or impure. Of Democracy in a partisan sense, I have nothing to say, but as it is held by all classes and all parties as a part of our political system, I think it is true that in all social intercourse, in public morality, in official virtue, it was better practiced then than now. So far as piety is concerned, I can only say I believe that then, as now, devoted men preached the truths of religion, and toiled with faithfulness in their Maker's cause. Many of those who rest in yonder grave-yard went down to their resting place soothed and comforted by an assurance of future joys, and I trust all of those who stand before me are animated by the same hopes, and will, in their last hours, be sustained by the same consolation.



FINAL RESTING PLACE OF POMPEY'S PIONEERS AND DESCENDANTS.

#### ADDRESS DELIVERED BY

## GOVERNOR SEYMOUR

TO THE INMATES OF AUBURN PRISON, JULY 4, 1879

I have declined all invitations this year to make public addresses; but when your Warden asked me to speak to you to-day, I made up my mind to do so, although at the hazard of my health. My interest in the inmates of this and other prisons grows out of official duties, as I have had to act on many cases of applications for pardons. I have learned from a long experience with men in all conditions of life, that none are without faults and none without virtues. I have studied characters with care. I have had to deal with Presidents and with prisoners. I have associated with those held in high honor by the American people. On the other hand, the laws of our State have placed the lives of criminal men in my hands, and it has been my duty to decide if they should live or die. The period in which I took the most active part in public affairs was one of great excitement, when passions and prejudices were aroused; and in common with all others engaged in the controversies of the day, I have felt the bitterness of partisan strife; nevertheless, experience has taught me to think kindly of my fellow men. The longer I live, the better I think of their hearts and the less of their heads. Everywhere, from the President's mansion to the prisoner's cell, I have learned the wisdom of that prayer which begs that we may be delivered from temptation.

Another great truth is taught by experience: hope is the great reformer. We must instill this in men's minds, if we wish to cultivate their virtues, or enable them to overcome their vices. It has been said that despair is the unpardonable sin; for it paralyzes every sentiment that leads to virtue or happiness. To help us do our duty, we must cherish hope, which gives us courage and charity, which gives us hopes for others. For this reason, when Governor of this State, I did all I could to gain the passage of laws which enable each one of you, by good conduct, to shorten the term of your imprisonment, and if I had my way, you would have a share in the profits of your labor. But I stand before you to-day to speak of another ground of hope, of a higher and more lasting character than mere gain or shortened terms of punishment; and what I have to say does not point to you alone, but to men of all conditions. I do not mean to take the place of those who teach you your religious duties. They are far more able than I am to make these clear to your minds; yet it is sometimes the case that we see things in lights in which they are not usually placed before us, and some thoughts which have occurred to me, in a review of my life, may be of interest and value to you. When we grow old we are struck with the fleetness of time; our lives seem to be compassed into one brief period; we suddenly find that pursuits we have followed are closed, and we are confronted with the question, not what we have gained, nor what positions we have held, but what we are in ourselves. We know it is our duty to do what is right, and to avoid doing wrong, but when we look back, if we add up all of our good deeds on the one hand, and our bad acts on the other, we find a startling balance against us. When men reach my time of life, their minds turn towards the past, and they travel backwards the paths they have followed. They see things from the opposite side from which they were viewed in youth onward, and are struck by truths which never break upon their minds until they look back upon them.

Sitting before my fire on a winter evening, and musing, as old men are apt to do, about their acts, their errors, their successes or their failures, it occurred to me what I would do if I had the power, and was compelled to wipe out twenty acts of my life. At first, it seemed as if this was an easy thing to do. I had done more than twenty wrong things for which I had always felt regret, and was about to seize my imaginary sponge and rub them out at once, but I thought it best to move with care, to do as I had done to others, lay my character

out upon the dissecting table, and trace all influences which had made or marred it. I found to my surprise, if there were any golden threads running through it, they were wrought out by the regrets felt at wrongs; that these regrets had run through the course of my life. guiding my footsteps through all its intricacies and problems; and if I should obliterate all of these acts, to which these goblen threads were attached, whose lengthening lines were woven into my very nature, I should destroy what little there was of virtue in my moral make-up. Then I learned that the wrong act, followed by the just regret, and by thoughtful caution to avoid like errors, made me a better man than I should have been if I had never fallen. In this, I found hope for myself and hope for others, and I tell you who sit before me, as I say to all in every condition, that if you will you can make yourselves better men than if you had never fallen into errors or crimes. A man's destiny does not turn upon the fact of his doing or not doing wrong-for all men will do it-but of how he bears himself, what he does and what he thinks, after the wrong act. It was well said by Confucius, that a man's character is decided, not by the number of times he falls, but by the number of times he lifts himself up. I do not know why evil is permitted in this world, but I do know that each one of us has the magical power to transmute it into good. Every one before me can, if he will, make his past errors sources of moral elevation. Is this not a grand thought, which should not only give us hope, but which should inspire us with firm purposes to exercise this power which makes us akin to the Almighty; for He has given it to us and has pointed out in His words how we shall use it. The problem meets us at every step. There is nothing we do which will not make us better or worse. I do not speak merely of great events, but of the thoughts upon our beds, the toil in the workshop, and the little duties which attend every hour. God, in His goodness, does not judge us 50 much by what we do; but when we have done things, right or wrong, our destiny mainly turns upon what we think and do after their occurrence. It is then we decide if they shall lift us up to a higher level, or bear us down to a lower grade of morals. Our acts mannly spring from impulses or accidents-the sudden temptation, imperfect knowledge or erring judgment. It is the afterthought that gives them their hue. The world may not see this; it may frown upon the deed and upon the man, who, nevertheless, by his regrets, makes it one which shall minister to purity and virtue in all his after-life. You, who sit before me, in some ways have advantage over other men whose minds are agitated by the hopes and fears of active pursuits, who find no time for thoughts which tend to virtue and to happiness. Web each of you, in a little time, the great question will be-not if you are to be set free, not what the world thinks of you, not what you have -but what you are; for death often knocks at the door of your cells, and some of your number are carried from their narrow walls by the more narrow walls of the grave.

Let it not be thought that I prove wrong may be done so that good may follow. With Saint Paul, I protest against such inference from the truth that men are saved by repentance of their sins.

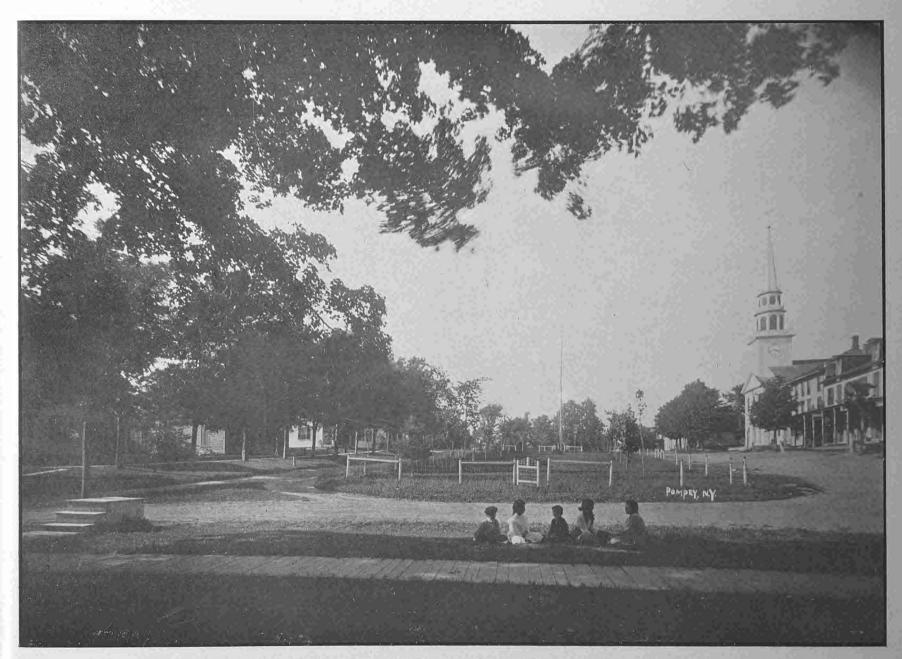
But let us look further into this subject, for it deeply concerns us. Though we are unable to recall the errors of the past, we may so deal with them that they may promote our virtue, our wisdom and happiness. Upon this point I am not theorizing. Whoever thinks will learn that human experience proves this. Let us take the case of our errors. We should find, if we could rub them all out, that we should destroy the wisdom they have given us, if we have taken care to make our errors teach us wisdom. Who could spare their some all our natures, which leads us to minister to the griefs of others, and thus to gain consolations for ourselves, grow out of what are felt as keen calamities when they befall us.

Following out the line of my thoughts, when I assumed that I had the power and was compelled to drown in Lethean waters acts, I found I could not spare errors which call forth regrets, mistakes which teach us wisdom, or the sorrows which soften character make us sensible of the sympathies which give beauty to the intercourse of life. As I had to obliterate twenty events, I found I could be spare the successes or triumphs which had only served to impart courage in the battle of life and had but little influence in forthing that we can that wherever and whatever we are, we can so deal with the past, that we can make it give up to us virtue and wisdom by our regrets, do more than the alchemist aims at when he seeks to transmute base metals into gold, for we can make wrong the

right and righteousness; we can transmute error into wisdom; we can make sorrows bloom into a thousand forms like fragrant flowers. These great truths should not only give us contentment with our positions, but hope for the future. The great question, what we are, presses itself upon us as we grow old, or flashes upon us when our lives are cut short by accident or disease. Within these walls, but few days pass without that question being forced upon the minds of some who have reached the end of life's journey. Surely, it should give hope and consolation to all to feel that they can, in the solitude of the cell, or in the gloom of the prison, by thought, by self-examination, make the past, with its crimes, its errors and its sorrows, the very means by which they can lift themselves into higher and happier conditions. This work of transmuting evil into good, is a duty to be done by all conditions of men, and it can be wrought out as well in the prisoner's cell, as in the highest and most honorable position, for when you do this, you work by the side of the Almighty. All human experience accords with the higher teachings of religion, that holds out hope to men who feel regret for every evil act. I wish to call your minds to that amazing truth, that there is a Being who rules the world with such benevolence, that He enables weak and erring mortals, if they will, to turn their very sorrows and errors into sources of happiness.

We have many theories in these days in which men try to tell us how the world, acting upon certain fixed laws, has made itself; that it goes on by a progress that regards as nothing but certain rules of advancement, regardless of all other considerations save their own irresistible self-compelling principles. But here we have a truth not only given us in Holy Writ, but proved by our experience, that mental regret will convert a material wrong into a blessing, or, if the offender wills it, will make the same a hundred-fold more hurtful if he rejoices in his wrong-doing, or hardens his heart against regret. Materialism, evolution, pantheism, or any of the theories which deny the government of an intelligent God, are all phases of fatalism, and are confuted by this truth, that we can, by conforming to His laws, which demand repentance, convert evil into good, or by violating them make evil ten-fold more deadly and destructive. We can, by our minds and sentiments, change the influence of material events, and vary the action of laws which govern the world. If man, with all his weakness, can do this, it can only be by the aid of a higher power which shapes, directs and regulates.

I know that what I have said is but an imperfect statement of great truths, compared with the teachings of the pulpit which you hear each Sunday. As my purpose is merely to speak to you of what I have learned in the walks of life, I can give you from this narrow field but partial views of great truths. They may be of no value to you, yet I trust you will accept them at least as proof of my sympathies with your condition and sorrows, for if any ambition lingers in the breast of him who speaks to you now, it is that he may be the friend adviser of the erring and wrong-doer. He has been taught by self-examination and the study of others, that we all belong to that class, and that we owe to one another any aid we can give to our fellows when they fall by the wayside.



A VIEW OF POMPEY VILLAGE LOOKING NORTH FROM THE HENRY SEYMOUR HOME SHOWING THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ERECTED IN 1817.

## "DO SOMETHING FOR YOUR TOWN"

It is said the characteristics of mankind are largely influenced and shaped by physical surroundings. In looking over the inhabitants of the various and diversified lands that mark locations upon this green and rolling earth, we find certain national characteristics. How much they are indebted for these to the physical environments which their parents observed and which they experienced in early life, is a question for philosophers to analize and determine. Certain it is, that the distinctive characteristics of nations largely differ. Enlarging upon this thought, has the extended and diversified scenery of Pompey anything to do with the eminent characters that have made the old town famous? Has the intercourse of her youth with nature in her mildest moods and in her fiercest storms no influence upon moulding character?

What makes the youth healthy but the invigorating pure air and welcome drafts from the pure, crystal springs that bubble up along their path as they climb the hills or wend their way along the gentle vales of old Pompey? If such surroundings and experiences in the hay-field and in harvesting the golden corn, better and more profitable than athletic schools, is the lot of Pompey youth, let the youth of the crowded, sickly city hie to the hills; let the poorly paid, overworked adult seek the recuperating means open to all upon the invigorating and fertile hills of this historic town.

It is a common occurrence for the most eminent and successful physicians of Syracuse, and the county at large, to send their patients to Pompey to recover lost health, and Dr. Orson G. Dibble, resident physician of Pompey for forty years, says: "I consider Pompey one of the most healthful spots in New York State. Mortality is confined mostly to older people. I have had but one case of typhoid fever im fifteen years. With the exception of contagious diseases our children are free from sickness."

In view of these facts, what better place can be found in all the land, when parents desire to send their children to school away from home, than Pompey Hill, a beautiful clime and free from the evil influences that are encountered in densely populated localities?

And now, as the tired, worn out workers in the crowded city feel the necessity or even propriety of seeking repose from arduous and combining labor in shop or store, where can they find a more congenial clime to rest and recuperate than upon the hills of Pompey? Here they may rest at a moderate expense. They are within sight of home if they live in Syracuse. They are not exposed to the noise and example the content of Saratoga or sea-side resorts. If their home is in large cities or even upon the shores of the Ocean, their retirement to the pure concurred vision of their home surroundings. So if the true lover of nature desires repose for a few weeks, either for health or pleasure, he can find no more congenial resort than the classic town of Pompey, 1843 feet above sea level.

And if "pater familias" desires his boys and girls to receive an education founded on common sense, he can do no more advantageous thing for his children than to emigrate to the fertile farms of Pompey. Good schools are open for their intellectual development, churches and Sabbath schools for their growth in Christian experience. The farms of Pompey are unsurpassed by any in the County of Onondaga. The soil is a rich loam, underlaid by clay, and it retains moisture and is less liable to be affected by drouth than the low, sandy land of the walleys. The town is unsurpassed in the production of cereals and the reputation of Pompey potatoes and cabbage is the highest in the market. And again, a creamery is established at Pompey Hill, which offers the farmers an opportunity to stock and enrich their farms

for future crops. So there is an opening for the crowded city to spare many of its population, to come to the green, fertile hills of Pompey and raise their children free from the allurements of city life and always in touch with the transcendant scenery of the wenerable Old Hill.

Are you living a dissatisfied life in the city, working hard from year to year, paying a big rent for a house which you can never call your own home, your boys exposed to all those temptations which may bring about their temporal and spiritual ruim, yourself and wife wearing your lives away with no hope of comfort in your old days other than the possible care neglected children may give you? Cheer up! Good homes in Pompey await honest, industrious, temperate, God-fearing people. Make us a visit. Come, if only for a day—there is health in every breeze—there is joy in every scene!

Pompey, N. Y., July 21, 1906.

Yours sincerely,

G. S. MAHON.

